

# HOUSE . . . . . No. 106

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By Mr. Larkin of Pittsfield, petition of Peter J. Larkin and others  
for legislation to further regulate the initiative petition process in the  
Commonwealth. Election Laws.

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## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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### PETITION OF:

Peter J. Larkin	Mary E. Grant
Matthew C. Patrick	Thomas J. O'Brien

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In the Year Two Thousand and Five.

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AN ACT RELATIVE TO TRUTH IN THE INITIATIVE PETITION PROCESS.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General  
Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:*

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 53 of the General Laws, is hereby  
2 amended by inserting after section 22A the following section:—  
3 “Section 22C. Anyone who circulates petition whether for hire,  
4 reward, or not must meet the state requirements for voter registra-  
5 tion.”

1 SECTION 2. Chapter 53 of the General Laws, as appearing in  
2 the 2000 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting after the  
3 word secretary in line 14 the following:—  
4 A summary report and recommendation prepared jointly by the  
5 house and senate committees on ways and means detailing the  
6 potential fiscal impact of the proposed petition.

1 SECTION 3. Section 6B of chapter 55 of the General Laws, as  
2 so appearing, is hereby amended by inserting after the first sen-  
3 tence the following sentence:—  
4 A ballot question committee may solicit or accept contributions  
5 from an individual who is not a resident of the state at the time at  
6 which the contribution is made, but the amounts accepted from  
7 individuals who are not residents may not exceed 10 percent of  
8 total contributions are received.

1     SECTION 4. Said section 6B of said chapter 55, as so  
2     appearing is hereby further amended by adding the following  
3     paragraph:—

4     A ballot question committee shall be subject to the reporting  
5     requirements in effect for candidates and candidates committees.  
6     Such reports shall be made 90 days after the initial formation of  
7     the committee and once every 90 days thereafter until 60 days  
8     prior to the election. Said reports shall not only reflect the contri-  
9     butions from individuals, but also the aggregation of the contribu-  
10    tions made by the individual in that calendar year. Said report  
11    shall also reflect the aggregation of expenditures made by the  
12    committee and that each report should reflect the aggregation of  
13    expenditures made to certain outlets in the calendar year up to that  
14    point.

1     SECTION 5. Subsection (a) of section 7A of said chapter 55, as  
2     so appearing, is hereby amended by striking out subparagraph (4)  
3     and inserting in place thereof the following subparagraph:—

4     (4) An individual may, in addition, make campaign contribu-  
5     tions to ballot question committees; provided, however, that the  
6     aggregation of all such contributions for the benefits of any one  
7     ballot question committee shall not exceed the sum of five hun-  
8     dred dollars in any calendar year.